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MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Vice Director For Collection
Management
Department of Defense
Principal Advisor For Prisoner of War
Missing In Action Affairs
(International Security Affairs)
Director, Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea
Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Department of State

SUBJECT: Sighting of 30-40 Caucasians, Possibly
Prisoners, in Hanoi; Soviet-Aided Military
Project

NO HARD COPY FOLLOWS

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: DEC 2002

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1. Attached as of possible interest to you is a report obtained from the debriefing of a Vietnamese refugee who observed 30-40 Caucasians, who were possible prisoners, in Hanoi in October 1982. He also had second-hand knowledge of a Soviet-aided military project at Yen Tu in Quang Ninh Province and of work on Soviet missile modification at Hoa Binh.

2. This very sensitive information is for your background use only. There will be no further distribution of this report and additional dissemination or extraction of this information requires prior approval from this Agency. DIA is authorized to pass this information to the Joint Casualty Resolution Center (JCRC) and its representatives in Bangkok.

[Redacted]
Clair E. George
Deputy Director For Operations

Attachment: Report as stated

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THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED
INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Sighting of 30-40 Caucasians, Possibly
Prisoners, in Hanoi; Soviet-Aided Military
Project

TEXT: 1. In mid-October 1982 between 30 and 40 Caucasian men were sighted in a basement of a two-storied building on a military compound in Hanoi. The men, who were viewed through a ventilation grate, wore green People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) uniforms without insignia. They were of large build and some had mustaches. When sighted, the Caucasians were engaged in playing chess, billiards and indoor basketball. It is not known what language the Caucasians spoke, but it was not Russian or Polish.

2. The Caucasians were sighted by [redacted]

[redacted]
for a drive around the city. After visiting a building near the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum which was believed to house offices for important foreigners in Hanoi, the two men and [redacted] drove along Dien Bien Street for approximately four minutes. The car then turned into two other streets (direction unknown) and travelled for ten additional minutes. The compound was located on a tree-lined street and was surrounded by a wall 1.8 meters high topped with barbed wire. The gate to the compound was guarded by two soldiers in PAVN uniforms. The compound had one two-storied building. The two-storied building had an external staircase. The compound was patrolled by two guards.

3. While [redacted] entered the two-storied building the two men waited outside. While waiting they glanced through a ventilation grate at the corner of the building and saw the Caucasians in the basement. The two men attempted to get a better look at the Caucasians but were apprehended by two guards, who admonished them for wandering around the compound. The men also were reprimanded by [redacted]

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4.

5. As of late 1982 at Yen Tu, north of Vang Danh, work was believed being conducted on a secret strategic project by the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) with Soviet assistance. At a PAVN center in Hoa Binh work is being performed on modifying the Soviet SA-2 to make it as effective as the SA-3. [] Comment: Yen Tu may be near Pha Lai, which is the location of a PAVN missile unit, but the military center at Hoa Binh is unconfirmed. Why PAVN would want to modify the SA-2, which has a longer range than the SA-3 was not explained.)

6. [] Comment: The above information was obtained from the debriefing of a Vietnamese refugee, []

A.

B. [] said that he was not familiar with Hanoi and therefore was unable to provide a better description of the

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[Redacted]

location of the compound.

[Redacted]

C.

[Redacted]

D.

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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7. [REDACTED] Comment: At the SRV--set rate of
exchange U.S. \$1.00 equals 11 dong.)

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